

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0028]:

[0028.1] FIG. 10a is a top-view illustration of one embodiment of a fin guard showing how the fin guard covers a fin mounting fastener via a circular channel formed on the bottom of the fin guard;

Please replace paragraph [0064] with the following amended paragraph:

[0064] FIG. 10 illustrates fin guard 1000 generally for use with the security apparatus of FIG. 1 or FIG. 6, shown installed onto a surfboard. FIG. 10a is a top-view illustration of one embodiment of fin guard 1000 showing how the fin guard 1000 covers a fin mounting fastener 1010 via a circular depression 1304 formed on the bottom surface of fin guard 1000. Some features of fin guard 1000 have been omitted for clarity. Fin guard 1000 may be used in situations where the fins of a surfboard are removable. Such removable fins have become popular in recent years, because they allow for easier transportation and storage of surf boards, and allow inexpensive replacement if a fin should become damaged. However, removing one or more fins from a surfboard 602 secured by security apparatus 100 or 600 might allow a thief to slide the surfboard out from the adjustable shackle. Fins using this type of design are generally removable by accessing [[a]] fin mounting fastener 1010 ~~(not shown)~~, generally installed directly behind fin 1006 and into a channel 1008 located underneath a bottom surface of the surfboard.